Serial No.: 10/031,654

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-14, 16-23 and 25-37 are pending in the application.[1]

The claims are subject to an election requirement. Applicants hereby elect Species I (Figure 11), without traverse, for further examination on the merits. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 14, 16-20 and 32-35 are considered readable on the elected species. In addition, claim 1 is considered generic to the non-elected species.

Examination of claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 14, 16-20 and 32-35 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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[1]Applicants note that the Examiner indicates in the Office Action that claims 1-33 are pending in the application. However, the present application represents entry into the US National Phase under 35 USC §371 of PCT/JP00/03118. The Article 34 amendment submitted with the application amends claims 1, 5, 14, 16, 21 and 23. Claims 2, 6, 15 and 24 were canceled. Moreover, a Preliminary Amendment filed with the present application amended claims 5, 7-9, 11, 14, 20, 23, 25, 30, 32 and 33 to eliminate multiple dependencies, and added new claims 34-37.
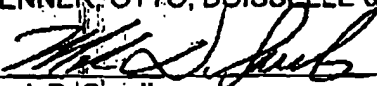
For the Examiner's convenience, the claims in their current status are reproduced above in the AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS section of this response.

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Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

Mark D. Saralino
Reg. No. 34,243

DATE: May 30, 2003

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